

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

Claim 1-12 (canceled)

Claim 13 (original): A seat of an automotive vehicle, comprising:

a foam cushion for a support component of the vehicle seat, the foam cushion having a cavity;

a heater overlaying the cushion, the heater including;

- i) a flexible carrier formed of a material selected from the group consisting of polymeric materials and fabric materials, the carrier including a first lengthwise edge opposite a second lengthwise edge, both the first and second lengthwise edge having an indentation with at least one contour;
- ii) a first conductive medium disposed upon the carrier, the first conductive medium being formed of a polymeric material wherein the first conductive medium includes
 - 1) a negative section having a first base portion and a plurality of first extensions extending from the first base portion, the first base portion extending along the first lengthwise edge of the carrier along the at least one contour of the first lengthwise edge; and
 - 2) a positive section having a second base portion and a plurality of second extensions extending from the second base portion, the second base portion extending along the second lengthwise edge of the carrier along the at least one contour of the second lengthwise edge; and
- iii) a second conductive medium that includes a plurality of strips, each of the strips in overlapping relation with only one of the plurality of first extensions and only one of the plurality of second extensions, the plurality of strips also extending substantially parallel to the first and second extensions, the second conductive medium having a positive thermal coefficient; and

a trim layer substantially covering the foam cushion;
wherein the heater is tied down to the foam cushion such that the heater curves at the at least one contour of the carrier.

Claim 14 (original): An article as in claim 13 wherein the carrier has a centralized opening between the indentation of the first lengthwise edge and the indentation of the second lengthwise edge.

Claim 15 (original): An article as in claim 13 wherein the heater includes a first electrical connection and a second electrical connection and wherein the first and second electrical connections are the only electrical connections of the heater.

Claim 16 (original): An article as in claim 13 wherein the plurality of strips is substantially uniformly spaced apart from each other and each strip of the plurality of strips has substantially the same shape.

Claim 17 (original): An article as in claim 13 wherein each strip has a substantially continuous density throughout.

Claim 18 (original): An article as in claim 13 wherein the carrier is formed of a material having a dielectric constant greater than 1.

Claim 19 (original): An article as in claim 13 wherein the carrier is formed of a material having an elongation at failure greater than 15%.

Claim 20 (original): An article as in claim 13 wherein the carrier is formed of a material having an elongation at failure greater than 50%.

Claims 21-43 (canceled)

Claim 44 (new): A seat of an automotive vehicle, comprising:

a foam cushion for a support component of the vehicle seat;

a heater overlaying the cushion, the heater including;

- i) a flexible carrier, the carrier including a first lengthwise edge opposite a second lengthwise edge;
- ii) a first conductive medium disposed upon the carrier, the first conductive medium being formed of a polymeric material wherein the first conductive medium includes
 - i. a negative section having a first base portion and a plurality of first extensions extending from the first base portion; and
 - ii. a positive section having a second base portion and a plurality of second extensions extending from the second base portion; and
- iii) a second conductive medium in overlapping relation to the first extensions and the second extensions; and

a trim layer substantially covering the foam cushion wherein the heater is disposed between the seat cushion and the trim layer.

Claim 45 (new): A seat as in claim 44 wherein the carrier of the heater and the first conductive medium cooperatively define at least one contour, which bends about a contour of the foam cushion.

Claim 46 (new): A seat as in claim 44 wherein the carrier of the heater has an hour-glass shape.

Claim 47 (new): A seat as in claim 45 wherein the carrier of the heater has a centralized opening defined adjacent the at least one contour.

Claim 48 (new): A seat as in claim 44 wherein the heater includes a first electrical connection and a second electrical connection.

Claim 49 (new): A seat as in claim 48 wherein the only electrical connections of the heater are the first and second electrical connections.

Claim 50 (new): A seat as in claim 44 wherein the second conductive medium includes a plurality of strips, each of the strips in overlapping relation with only one of the plurality of first extensions and only one of the plurality of second extensions, the plurality of strips also extending substantially parallel to the first and second extensions, the second conductive medium having a positive thermal coefficient.

Claim 51 (new): A seat as in claim 50 wherein the plurality of strips is substantially uniformly spaced apart from each other.

Claim 52 (new): A seat as in claim 50 wherein each strip of the plurality of strips has substantially the same shape.

Claim 53 (new): A seat as in claim 50 wherein each strip has a substantially continuous density throughout.

Claim 54 (new): A seat as in claim 44 wherein the carrier is formed of a material having a dielectric constant greater than 1.

Claim 55 (new): A seat as in claim 44 wherein the carrier is formed of a material having an elongation at failure greater than 15%.

Claim 56 (new): A seat as in claim 44 wherein the carrier is formed of a material having an elongation at failure greater than 50%.

Claim 57 (new): A seat as in claim 44 wherein the heater is tied down to the foam cushion such that the heater curves at at least one contour of the carrier.

Claim 58 (new): A seat as in claim 44 wherein the carrier is formed of a material selected from the group consisting of polymeric materials and fabric materials.

Claim 59 (new): A seat as in claim 44 wherein both the first and second lengthwise edge having an indentation with at least one contour.

Claim 60 (new): A seat as in claim 59 wherein the first base portion extends along the first lengthwise edge of the carrier along the at least one contour of the first lengthwise edge and the second base portion extending along the second lengthwise edge of the carrier along the at least one contour of the second lengthwise edge

Claim 61 (new): A seat as in claim 60 wherein the second conductive medium includes a plurality of strips, each of the strips in overlapping relation with only one of the plurality of first extensions and only one of the plurality of second extensions, the plurality of strips also extending substantially parallel to the first and second extensions, the second conductive medium having a positive thermal coefficient.

Claim 62 (new): A seat as in claim 44 further comprising a protective coating fully or partially covering the first conductive medium, the second conductive medium or both.

Claim 63 (new): A seat as in claim 62 wherein the protective coating is formed of a dielectric polymeric composition.

Claim 64 (new): A seat as in claim 63 wherein the coating is cured.

Claim 65 (new): A seat as in claim 62 wherein the coating is between about 100 microns and about 3 millimeters thick.

Claim 66 (new): A seat as in claim 55 further comprising a protective coating fully or partially covering the first conductive medium, the second conductive medium or both.

Claim 67 (new): A seat as in claim 66 wherein the protective coating is formed of a dielectric polymeric composition.

Claim 68 (new): A seat as in claim 67 wherein the coating is cured.

Claim 69 (new): A seat as in claim 66 wherein the coating is between about 100 microns and about 3 millimeters thick.